

1, wherein playback is performed such that a predetermined sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

--3. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein playback is performed such that a sound effect is selected by random selection from a plurality of sound effects for each section between the portions to be partially played back and the selected sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

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--4. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the playback time is randomly varied for each of the plurality of contents based on a predetermined reference time.

--5. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable.

--6. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the sound effect is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--7. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and a connection between the sound effect and a cut-out portion is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--8. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the plurality of sound effects is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--9. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and a connection between the sound effect and a cut-out portion is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

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--10. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the portion to be partially played back is played back based on a sound effect in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--11. (Amended) A playback method, comprising the steps of:

setting portions to be partially played back in each content of a plurality of contents based on a predetermined cut-out pattern in which at least a playback time is set;

selecting each content in sequence from the plurality of contents; and

sequentially playing back the portions to be partially played back set in the selected content.

--12. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 11, wherein playback is performed such that a predetermined

sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

--13. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 11, wherein playback is performed such that a sound effect is selected by random selection from a plurality of sound effects for each section between the portions to be partially played back and the selected sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

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--14. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 11, wherein the playback time is irregularly varied for each of the plurality of contents based on a predetermined reference time.

--15. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 11, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable.

--16. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 12, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the sound effect is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--17. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 12, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and a connection between the sound effect and a cut-out portion is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--18. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 13, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the plurality of sound effects is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--19. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 13, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and a connection between the sound effect and a cut-out portion is switched in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

--20. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 11, wherein the cut-out pattern is selectable and the portions to be partially played back are played back based on a sound effect in accordance with the cut-out pattern.

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--21. (Amended) A recording medium on which a playback procedure of playing back grouped contents is recorded, the playback procedure comprising the steps of:

setting portions to be partially played back in each content of a plurality of contents based on a predetermined cut-out pattern in which at least a playback time is set;

selecting a piece of content in sequence from the plurality of contents; and

sequentially playing back the portions to be partially played back set in the selected content.

--22. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim

21, the playback procedure further comprising the step of performing playback such that a predetermined sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

--23. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 21, the playback procedure further comprising the step of performing playback such that a sound effect based on a random selection is selected from a plurality of sound effects for each section between the portions to be partially played back and the selected sound effect is interposed between the portions to be partially played back.

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--24. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 21, the playback procedure further comprising the step of irregularly varying the playback time for each of the plurality of contents based on a predetermined reference time.

--25. (Amended) A playback apparatus for playing back contents in response to an operation on a display screen, the playback apparatus comprising:

first switching means for switching operating conditions of a processing system that processes at least the contents in response to an operation of a predetermined operation element; and

second switching means for switching a design of the display screen in response to the switching performed by the first switching means.

--26. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 25, wherein a corresponding list is selected from a plurality of lists for setting the operating conditions of the processing system and the operating conditions of the processing system that processes the contents are switched in accordance with the selected list in response to the operation of the operation element.

--27. (Amended) A playback method for playing back contents in response to an operation on a display screen, the playback method comprising the steps of:

switching operating conditions of a processing system that processes at least the contents in response to an operation of a predetermined operation element; and

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switching a design of the display screen in response to the switching of the operating conditions.

--28. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 27, wherein a corresponding list is selected from a plurality of lists for setting the operating conditions of the processing system and the operating conditions of the processing system that processes the contents are switched in accordance with the selected list in response to the operation of the operation element.

--29. (Amended) A recording medium on which a playback procedure for playing back contents in response to an

operation on a display screen is recorded, the playback procedure comprising the steps of:

switching operating conditions of a processing system that processes at least the contents in response to an operation of a predetermined operation element; and

switching a design of the display screen in response to the switching of the operating conditions.

--30. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 29, the playback procedure further comprising the steps of:

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selecting a corresponding list from a plurality of lists for setting the operating conditions of the processing system in response to the operation of the operation element; and

switching the operating conditions of the processing system that processes the contents in accordance with the selected list.

--31. (Amended) A playback apparatus for playing back contents by sequentially switching the contents in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback apparatus comprising:

display means for producing a display such that displays showing contents in the play list are arranged so that the contents are continuous in sequence in a playback sequence from a content that is currently played back at least from one of a display of an operation element for instructing a starting of playback and a display of an operation element for

instructing a stopping of playback; and switching means for switching the arrangement of the displays showing the contents in response to the switching of the playback of the contents.

--32. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the arrangement.

--33. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein a display showing the content is a name of the content.

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--34. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the content is audio data.

--35. (Amended) A playback apparatus for playing back contents by sequentially switching the contents in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback apparatus comprising:

display forming means for forming a display showing a piece of content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section;

display means for producing a display such that displays showing contents of the play list are arranged so that the play list contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that

is currently played back; and

switching means for switching the arrangement of the display showing the content that is currently played back and the display showing the contents of the play list.

--36. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the arrangement.

--37. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein a display showing the content is a name of the content.

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--38. (Amended) A playback apparatus for playing back contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents to be played back are recorded, the playback apparatus comprising:

play list display means for displaying a plurality of play lists;

playback means for playing back one piece of content of a second play list when a playback of one piece of content of a first play list from among the plurality of play lists is terminated; and

current play display means for displaying at least the piece of content that is currently played back and the piece of content to be subsequently played back such that the contents are mutually distinguished from other content.

--39. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to
Claim 38, further comprising:

first display means for producing a display such that displays showing contents of the play lists are arranged for each play list so that the contents are continuous in sequence in a playback sequence from content that is currently played back at least one of from a display of an operation element for instructing the starting of playback and from a display of an operation element for instructing a stopping of playback; and

second display means for displaying at least the piece of content that is currently being played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that the contents are mutually distinguished from other content.

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--40. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to
Claim 39, wherein a display showing a piece of content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the corresponding arrangement.

--41. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to
Claim 38, further comprising:

display forming means for forming a display showing the content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section;

continuous display means for producing a display such that displays showing contents of the play lists are arranged

for each play list so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that is currently being played back; and

distinguishing display means for displaying at least the content that is currently being played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that the contents can be mutually distinguished from the other content.

--42. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 41, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the arrangement.

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--43. (Amended) The playback apparatus according to Claim 38, wherein the content is audio data and the playback results of the continuous contents are mixed and output.

--44. (Amended) A playback method for playing back contents by switching the contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback method comprising the steps of:

producing a display such that displays showing the contents in the play list are arranged so that the contents in the play list are in sequence in a playback sequence from the content that is currently being played back at least one of from a display of an operation element for instructing the starting of playback and from a display of an operation element for instructing the stopping of playback; and

switching the arrangement of the displays showing the contents in response to the switching of the playback of the contents.

--45. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 44, wherein the display showing the content whose playback has been terminated is placed at an end of the arrangement.

--46. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 44, wherein the display showing the content is a name of the content.

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--47. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 44, wherein the content is audio data.

--48. (Amended) A playback method for playing back contents by switching the contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback method comprising the steps of:

forming a display showing content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section;

producing a display such that displays showing contents of said list are arranged so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that is currently played back; and

switching the arrangement of the display showing the

content that is currently played back and the display showing the contents of said play list.

--49. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 48, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of said arrangement.

--50. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 48, wherein the display showing the content is a name of the content.

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--51. (Amended) A playback method for playing back contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback method comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of play lists;
playing back one piece of content of a second play list when a playback of one piece of content of a first play list from among the plurality of play lists is terminated; and

displaying at least content that is currently played back and content to be played back such that the currently played contents and the subsequently played contents are mutually distinguished from other content.

--52. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

producing a display such that displays showing contents

of said play lists are arranged for each play list so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence from the content which is currently played back at least from one of a display of an operation element for instructing a starting of playback and a display of an operation element for instructing a stopping of playback; and

displaying at least the content that is currently played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that the currently played content and the subsequently played content are mutually distinguished from other content.

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--53. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 52, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the corresponding arrangement.

--54. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

forming a display showing the content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section;

producing a display such that displays showing contents of the play list are arranged for each play list so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that is currently played back; and

displaying at least the content that is currently played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that

the currently played content and the subsequently played content are mutually distinguished from other content.

--55. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 54, wherein a display showing content whose playback is terminated is placed at an end of the corresponding arrangement.

--56. (Amended) The playback method according to Claim 51, wherein the content is audio data and playback results of the continuous contents are mixed and output.

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--57. (Amended) A recording medium on which a playback processing procedure for playing back contents by switching the contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback procedure comprising the steps of:

producing a display such that displays showing contents of said play list are arranged so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence from content that is currently played back at least from one of a display of an operation element for instructing a starting of playback and a display of an operation element for instructing a stopping of playback; and

switching the arrangement of the displays showing the contents in response to the switching of the sequence of the content.

--58. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 57, wherein the playback processing procedure places a display showing content whose playback is terminated at an end of the arrangement.

--59. (Amended) A recording medium on which a playback processing procedure for playing back contents in sequence by switching the contents in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback processing procedure comprising the steps of:

forming a display showing content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section;

producing a display such that displays showing contents of the play list are arranged so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that is currently played back; and

switching the arrangement of the display showing the content that is currently played back and the display showing the contents of the play list in response to the switching of the contents.

--60. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 59, wherein the playback processing procedure places a display showing content whose playback is terminated at an end of the arrangement.

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--61. (Amended) A recording medium on which a playback processing procedure is recorded for playing back contents in sequence in accordance with a play list in which the contents are recorded, the playback processing procedure comprising the steps of:

displaying a plurality of play lists;

playing back a piece of content of a second play list when a playback of a piece of content of a first play list from among said plurality of play lists is terminated; and

displaying at least content that is currently played back and content to be subsequently played back such that the currently played content and the subsequently played content are mutually distinguished from other content.

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--62. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 61, the playback processing procedure comprising the steps of: producing a display such that displays showing the contents of said play lists are arranged for each play list so that the contents become in sequence in a sequence in which playback is performed starting from the content that is currently being played back at least from one of a display of an operation element for instructing a starting of playback and a display of an operation element for instructing a stopping of playback; and

displaying at least the content that is currently played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that the currently played content and the subsequently played

content are mutually distinguished from the other content.

--63. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 62, the playback processing procedure further comprising the step of placing content whose playback is terminated at an end of the corresponding arrangement.

--64. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 61, the processing procedure further comprising the steps of:

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forming a display showing the content that is currently played back in a predetermined area of a display section; producing a display such that displays showing the contents of the play list are arranged so that the contents become continuous in sequence in a playback sequence with respect to the display showing the content that is currently played back; and

displaying at least the content that is currently played back and the content to be subsequently played back such that the currently played content and the subsequently played content are mutually distinguished from the other content.

--65. (Amended) The recording medium according to Claim 64, the playback processing procedure further comprising the step of placing content whose playback is terminated at an end of the corresponding arrangement.--

REMARKS